

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office action mailed February 12, 2007. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7, 10, and 11 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 3 and 4, which originally depended from claim 2 have been amended to now depend from claim 1. Claims 7-9 and 11, previously withdrawn, have now also been cancelled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in Claims 2-4 and 10.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,467,376 to Francis (“Francis”). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable by Francis. As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom (e.g., claim 3-6) should now be allowable as well, and the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims (e.g., claims 3-6) are also deemed patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

None of the other art of record is understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 23, 2007

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